

REMARKS

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-9 are currently pending. Claims 10-12 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter claimed therein. Claim 9 is withdrawn from examination as being directed to a separate invention. Claims 1-8 are under examination.

Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for rejoining claim 8 and indicating that claims 1-4, 7, and 8 are allowable. Claims 5 and 6 have been amended to place the claims in proper dependent form. The amendments to claims 5 and 6 do not introduce prohibited new matter. Accordingly, after entry of this amendment, claims 1-8 should be deemed allowable.

Rejoinder

Applicants respectfully point out that MPEP 821.04(b) requires that once a product claim is found allowable, withdrawn method claims which depend from or otherwise include all the limitations of the allowable product claim must be rejoined. Accordingly, since claims 1-4, and 7, directed to a product, have been indicated as allowable, Applicants respectfully request that withdrawn method claim 9, which depend from or otherwise include all the limitations of claim 1, be rejoined and indicated as allowable.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

Claims 5 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite.

Claims 5 and 6 have been amended to correct the inadvertent errors in these claims. Thus, these claims do not lack antecedent basis and are definite.

Conclusion

The foregoing amendments and remarks are being made to place the application in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request entry of the amendments, reconsideration, and the timely allowance of the pending claims. A favorable action is awaited. Should an interview be helpful to further prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

If there are any additional fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0310. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 not accounted for above, such an extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,
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